

Reconstruction 8-Sentence Paragraph

During Reconstruction African-Americans faced many challenges in their lives. Describe one political, one economic, and one social challenge they faced at this time. Remember to support each idea with detail/example.

Although the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were ratified, abolishing slavery, making African Americans citizens, and giving African Americans the right to vote, African Americans still faced many political, social and economical challenges.

To begin, many Southern states started creating and passing black codes that would severely restrict African Americans lives. Even with the "equal protection" clause in the 14th amendment these codes led to complete segregation and encouraged the discrimination of blacks. Continuing, with the rise of the K.K.K and white league, which strongly believed in white supremacy, the civil rights given to African Americans were tested. These groups lynched innocent African Americans to frighten them and found ways, such as literacy tests, to stop blacks from their right to vote given in the 15th amendment. Finally, the 40 acres and a mule promise given by general Sherman to African Americans, promising them 40 acres of the abandoned plantation land and an old army mule was broken when returning plantation owners ordered their land back. This forced African Americans into the system of sharecropping and tenant farming where white land owners would either rent or give blacks some land but require most all the crops in return, creating a cycle of debt and poverty for African Americans. Surly many African Americans faced economical, political and social challenges during Reconstruction.